

Viewpoint

STREET TALK

Name an important Halloween safety tip.



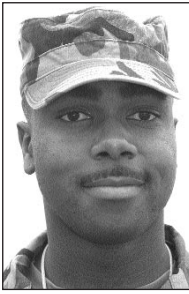
Spc. Matthew Schneider
257th Trans. Co.

"Make sure your kids stay in well-lit areas."



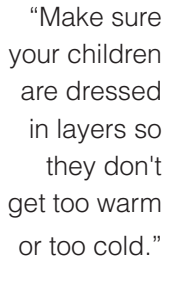
Staff Sgt. Charmaine Hilliard
Det. D, 22nd PSB

"Check candy before children eat it."



Tech Sgt. Robert Zackery
5th Air Support Operations Squadron

"Ensure an adult escorts all young children."



Robert Archuleta
AAFES employee

"Make sure your children are dressed in layers so they don't get too warm or too cold."



Sgt. Doyle Brandon
47th CSH

"Have children wear reflective tape or carry lights so drivers can see them."

Light your lava lamps, but let's forget 1968

By David W. Kuhns Sr.
 Northwest Guardian

Last week my son announced he was going to buy a Lava Lamp. You know what they are — shaped like a Michelob bottle on steroids, with a large blob of brightly colored goo rising and falling from the heat of a bulb at the bottom. They were one of the icons of the 1960s. They're "in" again, it seems. My son's desire for a lamp reflects a general trend toward turning back the pages 30 or 40 years. "Retro" is fashionable for the high school crowd and for many others. That got me to thinking about how that era seems to be viewed today. More and more, I see nostalgic flashbacks that never seem to illuminate more than long hair, beads, peace signs and bellbottom pants. I graduated from high school in 1968, just as the "hippie" era was reaching its peak. The Beatles, the Stones and Bob Dylan all made great music, the Smothers Brothers made us laugh, and

flower-painted VW micro-busses converged on San Francisco. What a great time, right? I think it was the worst year of my life. September 11, 2001, was a terrible day — our nation attacked, thousands dead, a sense of safety destroyed. But we also were stirred by the outpourings of patriotism, and by the courage and dedication of rescue workers. There were no silver linings in 1968. The war in Vietnam was already troubling to many, but 1968 was the year of the Tet Offensive. There is no doubt this was a tactical defeat for the Viet Cong. But it was also a shock to the innocent confidence of many Americans. We thought the war was almost over, and it clearly wasn't. What followed was not a resurgence of patriotism but years of increasing division in our population and a loss of confidence and respect for a military leadership many Americans felt had let them down. The war wasn't all that went wrong during that rotten year.

Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in 1968. A man who had led legions of diverse followers down the road toward justice and equality for all, through years of successful, non-violent action, was shot by a small-minded loser. The man who had seemed to bring us to the verge of an era of understanding was gone — and a summer of riots and discontent followed. Robert Kennedy was murdered in 1968, too. A lunatic shot him and irretrievably altered the political landscape. No matter what your political views, RFK's death was a tragedy. It was a major impetus to a turning away from the political process by young people that lasted for decades. 1968 was a presidential election year, just like 2004. But the winner drew less than 50 percent of the vote because a third-party candidate known primarily for his past bigotry broke the bonds of party loyalties and pulled votes away from both the Republican and Democratic tickets. There was no vague discussion about

a possible draft in 1968. The draft was how the military was filled. To those of us of draft age, that was the way it had always been — even Elvis got drafted. But in that awful year it had become a clear choice for those of us approaching graduation — you either found a way to go to college, or you went to Vietnam. At my middle-class, white high school, most chose the former. Some didn't. Some died. And it didn't end there. Those of us — a majority of the generation — who found ways to avoid the draft stayed safe, but didn't get away without pain. We knew people who served, we knew people who died in Vietnam, and there was always a gnawing guilt that we didn't step up when our nation called. That unspoken guilt has never healed, even after a later enlistment and 24 years in uniform. Yeah, Lava Lamps are still fun to watch — but feel nostalgia for the era they represent? Not me. I remember 1968 too well. I'll take 2004. These may not be the best of times, but they sure are better than they were.



Saying 'trick or treat' not what it used to be

By David W. Kuhns Sr.
 Northwest Guardian

"Trick or treat." That's one of the favorite phrases in American English — right up there with "Merry Christmas" and "Play ball." The sound of a child calling out the traditional request for candy brings back pleasant memories for all of us. I remember one of my first Halloweens. I went out as a robot. I wore silver-painted milk cartons on my arms and legs, and a painted box on my body. My parents have a photograph of me as I headed out. You can faintly see an 'X' through the silver paint on my chest along with the label "Lucky Lager." I was 5 years old, that year. I roamed the neighborhood under the supervision of my 7-year-old brother and his friends. I don't remember any parents on the street. Half the treats we got were homemade — popcorn balls, candied apples, cookies. Things were certainly different 'back in the day.' Parents are more careful these days. Costumes, parties, decorations, candy, and more candy — Halloween has always been a fun day. But keeping it fun isn't always easy to do. You rarely see those homemade confections any more. Too many stories have been bandied about telling of bad people attempting to do bad things with Halloween treats. Many of the stories are probably in the urban legend category. But, still, prudence dictates caution. So parents are advised to check over the treats before letting the children start eating them. Homemade treats generally head for the trash, unless parents are sure of the source. It is rare for really young children to hit the streets without adult supervision, too. They may stay out of the porch lights, but there is almost always a parent lurking in the shadows, keeping an eye on things when the little goblins ring the doorbell. A few years ago, there was talk about the end of trick-or-treating. Alternative parties, special events in shopping malls or other celebrations were seen as the wave of the future. The pendulum seems to be swinging back the other way, the last few years. More children come to the door every year. But now there is a greater emphasis on safety than in the past. And that is a good thing. On military installations parents have always had an advantage. How could you be safer? Here on Fort Lewis, trick-or-treating hours are announced — 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — and the military police will have extra courtesy patrols out in the neighborhoods. The MPs will even hand out chemical light sticks to increase visibility. Those living off post can take advantage of the same common sense precautions recommended on-post. All trick-or-treaters should carry a light of some sort. They should make their tour in groups. They should practice good traffic safety — using sidewalks, when they can, walking facing traffic, using marked crosswalks, looking both ways — and do all they can to make it a safe event. Even those without children have a place in making Halloween safe. No matter how much good advice is offered, children are children. They will dart in front of cars, they will lose their lights and they will do unexpected things. Drivers need to show an extra level of caution. If adults all do their part, we can make sure that the ringing bell and cry of "Trick or treat" remains a sign of joy — and not a reminder of tragedy.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic masses

Weekdays (except Tuesdays and DONSA's), 11:50 a.m. — Main Post Chapel, Building 2001, 967-4849
 Weekdays, 11:45 a.m. — Madigan Chapel, MAMC, 968-1120
 Saturdays, 4:30 p.m. — Madigan Chapel, MAMC
 Saturdays, 5 p.m. — 555th Dining Facility, North Fort Lewis, Building P12638
 Sundays, 8 a.m. — Main Post Chapel
 Sundays, 9 a.m. — Madigan Chapel
 Sundays, 11 a.m. — Main Post Chapel
 Sundays, 12:45 p.m. — Evergreen Chapel, Building 3238, 967-7186

Islamic services

Fridays, 1 p.m. — Prayer gathering, Islamic Chapel, Building 3725 (summer only)
 Fridays, noon — Prayer gathering, Islamic Chapel, (winter only)

Jewish services

Fridays, 7 p.m. — Chapel 5, Building 2270, 967-6590

Liturgical services

Sundays, 9 a.m. — Soldiers Chapel, Building 3799, 967-7151

Protestant services

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. — Main Post Chapel
 Sundays, 9:30 a.m. — Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, Building 9120
 Sundays, 10:30 a.m. — Madigan Chapel
 Sundays, 10:30 a.m. — Evergreen Chapel
 Sundays, 11:15 a.m. — Four Chaplains
 Sundays, 11:30 a.m. — 555th DFAC

Wiccan

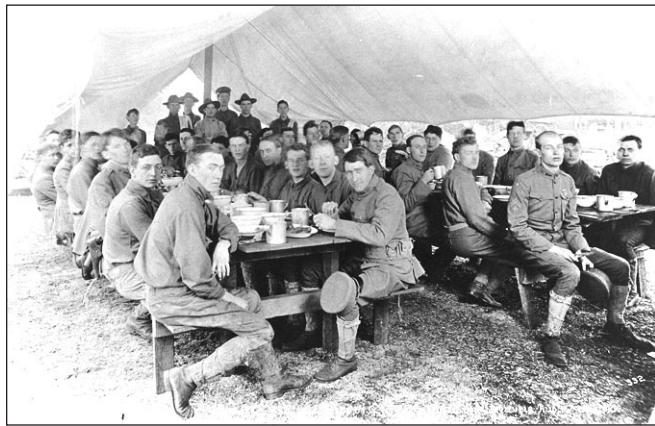
Saturdays, 6 p.m. — Building 6195

For LDS services information, call CH (Ret.) Bob Gillem at 964-0363.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

OCT. 29	OCT. 30	OCT. 31	NOV. 1	NOV. 2	NOV. 3	NOV. 4
1790: Gen. Harmer's column is almost wiped out in the worst Army defeat by Native Americans.	1954: Defense Department announces elimination of all segregated units.	1968: President Johnson orders a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam.	1904: First Army War College class convenes, including Capt. John J. Pershing.	1811: Battle of Tippecanoe: Gen William Henry Harrison defeats Tecumseh.	1979: Iranians take 63 Americans hostage at the U.S. embassy in Teheran.	1862: Richard J. Gatling receives a patent for a "rapid fire gun."

SIGNAL CORPS



"Mess" of Company A, Signal Corps, Washington National Guard during maneuvers in 1910 on the site later chosen for Fort Lewis.

Courtesy of the Fort Lewis Museum

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